

REMARKS

Rejections Under 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejects claim 1 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious under *Gilbert* in view of *Evans* and *Levinard*. The very fact that the Examiner is relying on three applications in combination demonstrates that the claim is non-obvious. In addition, the Examiner uses hindsight reasoning, citing literally no motivation to combine even any two of these references, much less all three references in the specific manner used by the Examiner. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 1 under 35 USC 103 should be withdrawn and its withdrawal is thus requested.

The Examiner rejects claim 7 under *Gilbert*, and in the case of claim 8, under *Gilbert* in view of *Evans*. Unfortunately, in both rejections, the Examiner has failed to identify particularly what the basis is for the rejection of each and every element of claim 7 or claim 8. The Examiner states that “order is not important”, however, when order forms a particular limitation of a method claim, as it does here (particularly in a crowded art), the order is critical. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully request the Examiner to make a more definite basis of rejection of claims 7 and 8 or either withdraw the rejection to claims 7 and 8.

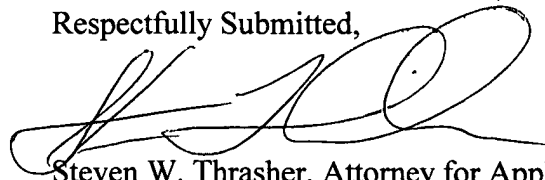
In the Event Arguments are Believed Insufficient

The Examiner is thanked for the phone interview, his consideration, and for acknowledging that there appears to be patentable subject matter in the present patent application even though he felt at the time of the interview that the unamended claims do not appear technically adequate. Should the Examiner disagree that the remarks place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to prepare an acceptable proposed set of claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07 (j).

Thus, it is believed that the pending claims are allowable, and allowance of said claims is respectfully requested. Other references made of record but not relied upon in the Office Action are considered no more relevant to the invention than the reference relied upon by the Examiner.

If the Examiner has other matters which remain, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the under signed attorney to resolve these matters by Examiners Amendment where possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. W. Thrasher', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

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